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The Washington State Legislature has not yet approved state operating and capital budgets for the 2015–17 biennium, which begins July 1. If the Legislature does not enact budgets by June 30, state agencies will have to implement full or partial shutdowns.

While we still expect the budgets to be approved by June 30, the BVFF & RO has been working with the state Office of Financial Management to develop contingency plans. [See a summary of all state agency plans and related information.](#)

In the unlikely event that a shutdown is necessary, we have identified services we will have to suspend until the 2015–17 budgets are enacted. Those services are listed below.

All services not directly related to the payment and processing of retirement pensions will be suspended. We will continue to process monthly pension payments, process requests for new retirements, and process changes of addresses and direct deposits.

All other activities will be suspended. These include, but are not limited to, processing claims, paying service providers, adding new members to the worker's compensation or retirement systems, approval of medical procedures, responses for income verifications, review of documentary evidence, buy-backs and make up payments (unless they affect a member's record that will be retiring within the period of the shut-down), and requests for general information or presentations.

During this time, we will not be monitoring our emails. Phone calls will only be responded to if they regard retirement pension payments. Departments and members wishing any other type of information will need to call back after government resumes its normal business activities. However, please understand that, depending on the duration of the shut-down, there will be a huge backlog of work, and responses to requests will be dramatically slower than constituents are used to.

***Also, please be aware that firefighters cannot be covered for worker's compensation until the office receives notification in writing that they have been accepted as members of the department. Since the office will be closed for all purposes other than processing retirements, we will not be available to "receive" written notification of new members. Therefore, departments should not "employ" new members, since the BVFF will be unable to insure them. Any new members reported prior to the shut-down will be accepted as of the date received. However, any remittances or notices sent to the BVFF by mail, email, or fax, during the shut-down will not be accepted until the first date that the office is re-opened for business.*

Finally, should a shut-down occur, the July 10, 2015 State Board Meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled for a later date.